

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Science – FAQ

1. Why are Arizona students taking AIMS Science?

AIMS Science is part of the NCLB requirement for annual testing.

2. Which students take AIMS Science?

Students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 take AIMS Science every spring. However, Grade 9 students who are enrolled in a life science course may take AIMS Science during their 9th grade year rather than wait until 10th grade. At this time, no other grade levels are being considered for AIMS Science.

3. When is AIMS Science Test administered?

AIMS Science Test is administered every April in Grades 4 and 8 and high school. Contact your student's school for a copy of the district calendar with specific testing dates. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window dates go to this link: <http://www.azed.gov/standards/downloads/FiveYearTestingCalendar.pdf>

4. Is AIMS Science a timed test?

No.

5. What is tested on AIMS Science?

AIMS Science is aligned to the grade level science standard for Grade 4 and Grade 8; AIMS HS Science is aligned to high school science Strands 1 – 4. All AIMS Science questions are multiple choice.

6. Will students have access to the Periodic Table?

Yes; in Grade 8, students will have a copy of the Periodic Table Reference Sheet. It is posted on the ADE website at www.azed.gov/standards/aims/.

7. Why are only Strands 1, 2, 3, and 4 assessed at high school?

Strands 1, 2, and 3 are the process strands which are the foundation of all science learning. Strand 4 is Life Science which is the science course that is reported for NCLB.

8. Why are Grade 9 students allowed to take AIMS HS Science test?

Life science is generally the first high school science course that students take. Some students elect to complete this course in Grade 9 rather than Grade 10. So that they may test in science during the year that they are actually in the life science class,

Grade 9 students may take AIMS Science in the spring of the enrollment year. No other out-of-grade testing is permitted.

9. Does my student have to pass AIMS HS Science to graduate?

No. The State Board of Education established that passing AIMS in Mathematics, Reading, and Writing is a graduation requirement. Science has not been added to the graduation requirement at this time (see ARS 15-701.01 and R7-2-302). Also, since it is not a graduation requirement, AIMS Science scores will not be considered for the Arizona Board of Regents High Honors Tuition Waiver.

10. Can my student retake AIMS Science to get a higher score?

No. Students test on AIMS Science once in Grade 4, once in Grade 8, and once in high school.

11. My student was absent for AIMS Science test. Can he/she make up AIMS test at a different time?

There are no make-up dates for AIMS HS Science; however, Grades 4 and 8 can make-up the test within the testing window. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window dates go to this link:

<http://www.azed.gov/standards/downloads/FiveYearTestingCalendar.pdf>

12. Does my student have to test on AIMS Science?

The law requires every public school district and charter to administer AIMS Science to each enrolled student in Grades 4, 8, and 10 (see #2 for Grade 9 exception).

13. Are private-schooled and home-schooled students allowed/required to test using AIMS Science?

Private- and home-schooled students are not required by law to test using AIMS. Private schools may administer AIMS tests if they choose to do so. Private-schooled students and home-schooled students may test at their local district school. A parent or guardian must contact the Test Coordinator at the local district school to make arrangements for AIMS testing.

14. When will I receive my student's AIMS Science results?

AIMS results are sent to the student's school district/charter school, and the district/charter school is responsible for their distribution. Results for AIMS Science will be available in August for testing year 2008; after 2008, they are available in June each year. Contact your student's school for specific dates and methods of distribution of test score reports.

15. My student has transferred to another school. How does the new school get my student's AIMS results?

Your student's new school will request records from your student's previous school which should include AIMS Science results.

16. Who can help me read/interpret my student's score report?

Your student's teacher and school are your best resources for helping you understand your student's score report as they are both familiar with the report and with your student.

17. Do students in Grades 4 and 8 have to pass AIMS Science in order to be promoted to the next grade level?

Arizona law does not require students to pass AIMS Science test in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Since local school districts/charter schools have specific policies related to promotion, parents concerned about their student's promotion should discuss these matters with the student's teacher.

18. Will AIMS Student Guides be available for Science?

Yes. Student Guides for AIMS Science will be available early in 2008.